

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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BRITISH STEAMER, WITH AMERICANS ABOARD, IS TORPEDOED; MOST OF PASSENGERS PERISH

VIENNA DISAVOWAL NOW HERE, ANCONA CASE CLEARING UP

Administration, Gratified at Accession of Austria to Demands of United States, Begins Preparation of Final Note That Will Mean the End of Incident—Berlin is Silent of Vienna Message.

Washington, Jan. 1.—With tension between the United States and Austria growing out of the destruction of the Italian liner Ancona, broken by Austria's favorable response to the American demands, administration officials today turned their attention to the preparation of another note to the Vienna government.

President Wilson at Hot Springs, Va., is studying the Austrian reply, the official text of which will be transmitted to him by special messenger. The situation over the Ancona incident is now believed to have cleared up to such an extent as not to necessitate the President's return to Washington before the middle of next week.

The new note will acknowledge Austria's concessions and also probably will cover the points left by Austria for further discussion. These relate principally to questions of fact which affect Austria's responsibility for what happened before the submarine commander torpedoed the Ancona, the importance of which is lessened by the promise of reparation for loss of American lives, despite the absence of proof as to just how they came to their death.

The principal American demands in

the Ancona case—punishment of the submarine commander and assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare on merchant vessels—have been met in Austria's reply.

Rome Sees Submission
Rome, Jan. 1.—The Tribune, in commenting on the Austro-Hungarian reply to the note from the United States regarding the Ancona incident sums up its article in the heading: "Austria Submits to America."

German Papers Silent

Berlin, Jan. 1.—The newspapers here find the Austro-Hungarian reply to the demands of the United States, concerning the sinking of the steamer Ancona, too delicate a ground to permit of comment. They are undoubtedly influenced in this attitude by a certain desire of the German government to see the incident smoothed over.

None of the morning papers commented on the note and the afternoon editions display some reticence. Only the Catholic Germania and the conservative military organ, Kreuss Zeitung, discuss it at all, and their observations are short and restrained.

BIRMINGHAM TELLS HIS MEN IT'S HIS LAST NEW YEAR'S AS POLICE HEAD

That this will be the last New Year's day with superintendent Eugene Birmingham as head of the Police department became known today when the platoon of police leaving headquarters at 8 o'clock this morning received the following greeting from their chief:

"Boys, members of this department and ranking officers, I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you will have the same success during the ensuing year as you have had in the past. I want you to uphold the dignity of this department well as you have during the many years I have been at its head. I will be very brief and you may take this statement anyway you wish. For the last time Eugene Birmingham wishes you a happy and joyous New Year as one year from today I will be among the missing as a member of this department."

It is reported that Superintendent Birmingham and a number of older members of the department will tender their resignations early in the spring.

RECIPIENT OF MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S APPOINTMENTS SLEEP LATE; FEW TAKE THEIR OATHS.

Mayor Wilson today announced the following appointments for the different city boards to take effect at once.

Fire Board—John H. Cassidy and Carl G. Lindquist. (Re-appointed.) Police Board—George C. Peet to succeed President George Sherman Hill; John E. Lyddy to succeed Lou P. Bristol.

Health Board—Dr. John Henry Callahan to succeed George C. Peet, resigned.

Charities Board—Mrs. M. H. Ford to succeed Rev. Matthew Judge; Dr. Thomas L. Ellis to succeed Rev. J. MacLaren Richardson.

Board of Apportionment—William E. Sealey, re-appointed; Carl F. Stemon to succeed Adolph Sherman; Frank J. Green to succeed William F. Kirk; Sigmund Loewith (re-appointed).

Board of Appeals—James A. Turner, (re-appointed).

Municipal Ice Plant Commission—Vincent S. Whitney, 4 years, (re-appointed); Timothy C. Cumming, 2 years, (re-appointed); Fred W. Hall, 1 year, (re-appointed); Israel J. Cohn, 3 years, to succeed Frederick Cederholm.

For the first time in many years there was no gathering as of old of the newly appointed city officials at the city hall. Usually it has been the custom for all to gather in the common council chamber and for friends of newly appointed officials to send them presents or flowers. All the new and old city officials slept

late and when City Clerk Robinson arrived at his office at 10 o'clock today he found no one there.

About ten minutes afterward Representative James P. Kelly who is to be his assistant appeared and was sworn into office. Before noon Sigmund Loewith, re-appointed to the board of apportionment took the oath, as did John H. Cassidy as fire commissioner.

Bullets Fired By Merry Makers Go Through Windows

New Year's merry makers caused alarm in the household of Mike Gennaro at 286 Grand street, about 2 o'clock this morning, when a bullet went crashing through the kitchen window.

John Prosperi of 181 North Washington avenue reported to the police this morning that a bullet was fired through the parlor window of his home about 1:20 this morning.

British Steamer Adelia Is Sunk

London, Jan. 1.—The British steamer Adelia has been sunk.

Available shipping records do not contain the name Adelia.

NEW PEACE ARK OF FORD PARTY IS JITNEY SIZE

Oscar II Will Be Abandoned in Favor of Smaller Craft at Copenhagen.

PACIFICISTS ARRANGE TRIP TO THE HAGUE

Danish Government Prohibits Public Meetings To Discuss War.

Copenhagen, Jan. 1.—It is considered probable that the Ford peace expedition will charter a small vessel at a cost of \$50,000 and sail direct from Copenhagen next Wednesday for The Hague.

When the members of the mission settled down here to consider their peace plans they discovered that the entire program adopted by the local authorities was for sightseeing. Advance arrangements for five days were devoted exclusively to touring the city.

The intervening time was to be consumed in automobile trips. This was due to the prohibition of the Danish government against public meetings for the discussion of war or peace.

The expedition, therefore, is unable to conduct sessions except in the nature of private meetings, many of which are being arranged.

ATLAS DECISION WILL BE GIVEN EARLY IN WEEK

Offer of Hotel Man to Discontinue Cabaret Rejected By Opposition.

It is expected that the county commissioners will give their decision next week on the application of Prof. Atlas against whom a big remonstrance was filed by neighboring churches. It has been reported that counsel for Prof. Atlas have offered to compromise with representatives of the churches by agreeing that the applicant will discontinue the cabaret feature provided the objection to a hotel liquor license is withdrawn. This offer is said to have been rejected.

No matter what the commissioners decide the matter will undoubtedly be taken to the superior court on an appeal and a hard fight will be made in that tribunal.

RAILROADS KILL ELEVEN PERSONS HERE IN MONTH

New Haven, Jan. 1.—Unofficial mortality statistics for December show that 46 persons were victims of accident in Connecticut, the suicides numbering eight and the homicides eight. Eleven persons were killed on the railroads, four by automobiles, 12 by burns, four were drowned and trolleys claimed two.

HOSTILE AERO SHELLS ALLIES' SALONIKI CAMP

Saloniki, Jan. 1.—An aeroplane squadron returning from a reconnaissance today dropped a bomb by error on the Greek camp, wounding one soldier, General Sarail, the French commander, made suitable explanation.

KNAPP NOBLE GRAND OF ORONOQUE LODGE

(Special to The Farmer.)

Stratford, Jan. 1.—Martin Knapp was elected Noble Grand of the Oronoque lodge, I. O. O. F., at the semi-annual election of officers held last night at the club rooms. Other officers elected were: William Buddington, Vice Grand; Harry Hunt, secretary, and James Mallett, treasurer.

Following the election, refreshments were served. The meeting was largely attended.

The Oronoque tribe of Red Men will resume its weekly shoots, the first one to be held Wednesday, Jan. 5. The committee is planning for several competitive shoots for the ensuing months.

WEATHER

Washington, Jan. 1.—Forecast: snow turning to rain this afternoon and tonight. Sunday, clearing and rising temperature. Moderate to fresh southwest winds.

KAISER CHEERS FORCES

Sends Hopeful New Year's Greeting to Army and Navy—Says 1916 Will Bring Victory to Cause.

Italian King Greets Cabinet and Aides at Battle Front—President Poincare Foresees Victory.

London, Jan. 1.—The Amsterdam correspondent of Reuters Telegram Co. says that Emperor William, according to a despatch from Berlin, has sent the following New Year's message to the army, navy and colonial troops:

"Comrades: another year of severe fighting has elapsed. Wherever a superior number of enemies has stormed our lines they have failed before your loyalty and bravery. Wherever I have sent you into battle you have gained a glorious victory. Thankful, long ago, I have buried the hope to conquer us in honest fighting. On the weight of their masses, on the starvation of our entire people, on the influence of their campaign of calumination, which is as mischievous as it is malicious, they believe they can still reckon. Their plans will not succeed.

"Before the spirit of determination which imperturbably unites the army and those at home their hopes will be miserably disappointed. With a will to discharge the duty to the fatherland to the last breath and determination to secure victory, we enter the new year with God for the protection of the fatherland and for Germany's greatness."

Italian Monarch Gets New Year's Greeting At Front

Rome, Jan. 1.—The annual New Year's ceremony of the presentation of the greetings to the King by the cabinet ministers, senators, deputies and high state officials is occurring at the war front this year instead of in the Quirinal palace at Rome. This is the greatest change noticeable in the capital and it adds to the popularity of the sovereign who, since the war began, irrespective of the great heat in the Ionian in July and August or of the extreme cold at this season on the crests of the Alps, 10,000 feet high, has refused to leave his soldiers even for a day.

Rome has virtually the same gay aspect as in other years. The only noticeable difference is the larger number of men wearing military uniforms. All amusements are proceeding as in past years.

POINCARÉ IS HOPEFUL

Paris, Jan. 1.—"Nineteen hundred and sixteen will be our year of victory," says President Poincaré in a message to "The Officers and Soldiers of France," which is being distributed along the whole front tonight. The message, which is one of great simplicity, expresses the confidence of the entire nation in its defenders.

KAISER PLANNING BIG WAR COUNCIL ON HIS BIRTHDAY

London, Jan. 1.—It is reported from German sources that Emperor William has summoned a great war council and a similar naval council to be held in Berlin on his birthday, Jan. 27.

Mrs. Lawrence, Former Fairfield Woman, Must Pay Her Laundry Bills

(Special to The Farmer.)

New York, Jan. 1.—According to a decision of the Appellate Term here yesterday, Mrs. Julia Watt Morris Curtis Lawrence, formerly a resident of Fairfield, must pay her laundry bills.

BASCULE DESIGN IS PLANNED FOR DRAW OF BRIDGE

East Washington Avenue Structure Will Be of Modern Lift Type.

OEVIATES TROUBLE IN SHIFTING SANDS

Grand Street Crossing Will Be Ready Before Work Starts on Other.

Instead of the present style of swinging bridge on a central pier, the proposed new East Washington avenue bridge will have one draw opening from the west pier of the bridge. This design has been decided on so that no more trouble may be experienced from the shifting quicksands and mud that have disturbed the foundations of the central pier of the present bridge and caused it to be unsafe for trolley car travel.

The new bridge will be designed for trolley car travel of the heavier type of street cars, which were not in use when the present bridge was built. In fact, it was not thought that street car traffic would go that way at all, when the bridge was built, more than 10 years ago.

Designs and plans of both the East Washington avenue and the Grand street bridge may be seen at the city engineer's office in city hall. A public hearing for the approval of the plans for both bridges will be held in the common council chamber of the city hall at 2:30 on the afternoon of Jan. 10. The arrangements were ordered by Maj. George B. Pillsbury, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A. The latter, however, has been transferred to a new post and his successor will conduct the hearing.

The East Washington avenue bridge is substantially the same as the present bridge but will be about 10 feet wider. It will have only one draw opening with a bascule lift. The east fender of the new bridge draw will be on the same line as the east fender of the present west draw opening. The west fender will be about 10 feet west of the present west fender of this opening. The new draw will have a 70 foot horizontal clearance between fenders, as compared with 60 feet in the present bridge.

The proposed bridge at Grand street will have a draw span with a 70-foot clearance between fenders, measured at right angles to the channel line. The draw will be centrally located with respect to the channel, which is straight in this locality. The draw will be a double-leaf bascule lift.

This bridge will not be destined for street car traffic. Work will begin as soon as the plans are approved and the contracts awarded. The new Stratford avenue bridge and the Grand street bridge will be completed before work is started on the proposed East Washington avenue bridge.

No street widening is contemplated at the approaches to the East Washington avenue bridge, which will cost \$120,000.

Bonds of \$200,000 were voted for the Grand street bridge and the streets and sidewalk committee of the common council is asking for \$50,000 additional for land damages for widening on the Grand street side of the bridge. The span will cross the Pequotunock, the eastern approach to be at Arctic street.

Rev. Thomas Molloy Is Desperately Ill

Prayers for the speedy recovery of happy death were offered today for Rev. Thomas J. Molloy, assistant at the church of the Blessed Sacrament, Waterbury, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Molloy of 113 Austin street, in all the Catholic churches of the state.

Father Molloy is seriously ill with throat trouble at St. Mary's hospital, Waterbury. His mother and brother, Lawrence Molloy, left the city last evening to be at the bedside.

The young clergyman is a native of the South End and a graduate of the Sacred Heart and the Bridgeport High school. He has been stationed at Waterbury ever since his ordination, which took place at St. Joseph's Cathedral in June, 1914, except for a few months when he assisted Rev. Peter McClean of Milford at the shore resorts.

Tommaso Salvini, Famous Tragedian, Passes Away at 87

London, Jan. 1.—Tommaso Salvini, the eminent Italian tragedian, has just died at Florence, Italy.

He was 87 years old and was one of the world's greatest tragedians. Salvini introduced and established Shakespearean plays in Italian drama.

More Than 200 Aboard Liner That is Attacked and Sunk in Mediterranean—Only Four Boatloads Get Clear Before Vessel Goes Down—American Consul at Aden Among Those in Cabins—Women and Children Make Up Large Part of Passenger List—State Department Gets Word That Most of Those on Liner Have Been Lost

London, Jan. 1.—The British liner Persia, bound from London to Bombay with more than 200 passengers, has been torpedoed and sunk.

Three Americans were aboard the steamer. Their fate is not known, though a Lloyd's despatch says most of the passengers were lost.

The Persia was attacked in the Mediterranean, off the Isle of Crete. The identity of the attacking vessel is unknown.

Three Americans on Board.

The Americans on the Persia were: Robert McNeely, United States consul at Aden; Charles H. Grant, a passenger for Bombay; and Edward Rose, a schoolboy of Denver, who possibly had disembarked at Gibraltar before the steamer was sunk.

Early reports say that four boatloads of survivors got clear before the Persia went down.

Fate of Americans Unknown.

Officials of the Peninsular & Oriental Line say they have received no details concerning the sinking of the Persia and did not know whether she received warning.

These officials say they were unable to give any information concerning American citizens on the Persia.

They say the steamship carried a large number of persons, but that no official figures are available as yet.

The Persia was sunk at 1 p. m. Thursday. Details of the disaster are lacking.

Women and Children on Ship.

Since leaving London, the Persia had stopped at Gibraltar, Marseilles and Malta. Some of the passengers from London disembarked at these points while others were taken on. Official figures are not available, though the number of bookings at London and Marseilles is placed at 231. Of these 87 were women and 25 children.

The Persia was owned by the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company of London. She was of 7,974 gross tons. She was reported leaving Gibraltar on December 2.

Robert N. McNeely, the American consul who was aboard the Persia, is a native of North Carolina. He was appointed to the consular post at Aden, Arabia in October, 1915.

The Persia was sunk in the eastern Mediterranean, through which the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean this route has been abandoned by the Japan Mail Steamship company, which is dispatching its steamships around the Cape of Good Hope.

Lord Charles Montague, who booked passage on the Persia, is a London stock broker. He was born in 1869 and served with the yeomanry cavalry.

"NEARLY ALL PERISHED." MESSAGE TO STATE DEPT.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Official despatches from London today said the liner Persia was torpedoed and sunk, "while approaching Alexandria" and that "nearly all perished."

The despatch came from Consul General Skinner at London and probably was based on the British Admiralty report, and is as follows: "P. and O. liner Persia reported sunk, submerged, while approaching Alexandria. Robert McNeely, American consul, Aden, left London as passenger. Nearly all on board perished."

Robert N. McNeely was making his first trip to a consular post for the United States government, having been

appointed Oct. 18, last, and assigned in Aden. His home is at Monroe, N. C., and he was a member of the North Carolina legislature from 1901 to 1910. He is 51 years old.

Mr. McNeely sailed from New York for England on Nov. 27 on the Holland-America liner Ryndam. A fellow passenger was Robert P. Skinner, American consul general at London. Mr. McNeely was on his way to take his first consular post. Mr. Skinner advised him to sail for the post by the Dutch line but the young man already had engaged passage on the Persia.

The Persia was last reported at Malta, on Dec. 29.

VIOLENT EARTH SHOCK IS FELT AT WASHINGTON

Washington, Jan. 1.—A heavy earthquake was being recorded on the seismographs of Georgetown University this morning. They were first noted at 9:10 a. m. and were continuing at 10 o'clock. Until the movement has subsided the observers were unable to give more definite data. Father Francis A. Tondert, seismological director, said the shocks were the heaviest recorded in some time.

STATE BANK CLEARINGS ESTABLISH A RECORD

New Haven, Jan. 1.—Bank clearings in Connecticut cities reached record figures in 1915. In New Haven, the total was \$196,181,787; in Hartford, \$355,045,698; in Waterbury, \$68,115,000; a gain in the three cities of approximately \$132,777,842.

UNKNOWN LINER TOWS DISABLED GREEK STEAMER

Newport, R. I., Jan. 1.—A message from an unidentified steamer, picked up by the radio station here early today, stated that she had taken the disabled steamer Thessaloniki in tow and was proceeding to New York.

The message said that the Thessaloniki was "short of steaming water," which indicated serious engine trouble. The weather along the coast was thick and the radio station had great difficulty in reading the message. The coast guard cutter Seneca had reported during the night that she was still trying to locate the Thessaloniki.

The steamer Florisel has been searching for the disabled vessel since early yesterday.